

NATURAL NEWS



The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

November 24, 1995

CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

CHICAGO WILDERNESS BECOMING A REALITY

Chicago Wilderness may sound like an oxymoron. But did you realize that right here in the Chicago metropolitan area survive the best remaining patches of tallgrass prairie and oak savanna east of the Mississippi? Or that if you were to look at a map of Illinois you would find that the major concentration of natural areas surrounds the greater Chicago area? Fields of corn and soybean cover most of the rest of the state.

Chicago Wilderness is the culmination of a growing, region-wide concern to promote, preserve and restore our region's rich, globally significant assemblage of native plants and animals. Chicago has the opportunity to become *the* worldwide example of how a large urban community can live compatibly with nature, and have all citizens be better for it. To turn this opportunity into action requires monumental effort and commitment. The Field Museum has played a key role in assembling 32 agencies and organizations -- in Chicago, the collar counties and neighboring portions of Wisconsin and Indiana -- to join forces in turning the Chicago region into a bioserve and having our rich natural heritage become central to our culture.

Over the past year, The Field Museum has hosted three meetings of the full executive Council of partner institutions (including federal, state and local government agencies, land owners, conservation organizations, education and research institutions). Through the Museum's Office of Environmental and Conservation Programs, we have led many working sessions with the Steering Committee, and Science and Education Teams of the Council. On November 17, we held another meeting of the full executive Council, this time to agree on initial projects and set the date for the announcement and kick-off of this landmark initiative early next spring.

If you'd like to learn more about *Chicago Wilderness*, Field Museum's role in the initiative, or how you can be part of the effort please join Debby Moskovits for an open meeting **Friday, December 1, at noon, Classroom 1**. Please come share your ideas, suggestions, questions. See you there!

REMEMBER to delete your voice mail messages -- and arrange to have this done when you are on vacation. The system gets clogged and will not accept more messages when it is too full.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS WITH CHICAGO COMMUNITIES

Through a lead from Jessie Thymes in Education, **Lucia Sayre** got in touch with the programming committee of The Pilsen Coalition for Families, and helped write part of a Youthnet grant proposal that has just been awarded \$200,000 from the City of Chicago. Working with ECP and others in CEEB and Education, Lucia will help develop a Field Museum environmental education component to the new Youthnet program in Pilsen. Lucia also involved The Nature Conservancy to collaborate in an outings component to the Youthnet program and provide free transportation to natural areas around Pilsen. Other Youthnet programs around the city are showing interest in new environmental programs, and Lucia is exploring possibilities in Hyde Park and Roseland.

Meanwhile, through the Chicago Region Biodiversity Council (aka *Chicago Wilderness* effort), Lucia is helping organize a collaborative, regional project to identify communities in the Chicago area that lack environmental programs and to conduct an informal needs assessment in those communities. The Field Museum will coordinate with other institutions in the Council, to help develop appropriate environmental programs for underserved communities.

SHEDD AQUARIUM JOINS ATP

The Shedd Aquarium has just announced its agreement to join the Advanced Training Program in the Conservation of Biological Diversity (ATP). ATP is a consortium based at The Field Museum that has included the Brookfield Zoo and the

University of Illinois at Chicago up to this time. Their decision is based partly on the desire of ATP to include a stronger aquatics component in the program; the expertise that the Shedd will bring will be of great value. Plans for aquatics sessions in 1997-1999 are being discussed; if you have not spoken with Larry Heaney or Wendy Jackson about this but are interested, please let us know!

HERPETOLOGISTS VISIT FIELD MUSEUM AND PRESENT TALK

On November 14, 1995, The Field Museum, Department of Zoology, Division of Amphibians and Reptiles welcomed two herpetologists, Dr. Natalia Ananjeva and Dr. Nikolai Orlov of The Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia, for a three week visit. Their visit was made possible by an award from the Robert O. Bass Visiting Scientist Fund. The Bass Fund was established to provide extended-term research opportunities for distinguished national and foreign scientists to utilize our collections and library holdings. While here, they will be working with **Dr. Robert Inger** (Zoology) and **Dr. Harold K. Voris** (Zoology). Ananjeva and Orlov (husband and wife), both have active field and laboratory programs. Although the bulk of their work has been in Central Asia, they have been working in Vietnam for the past 5-6 years. Ananjeva, Orlov, and Dr. Ilya Darevsky (who visited here last year) have made some of the most important herpetological collections ever made in Indochina. Many of the specimens are deposited here at The Field Museum.

On Wednesday, November 29, Drs. Ananjeva and Orlov will be giving a talk and slide presentation entitled "Amphibians

(x338) or **Andrew Leman** (x336) if you have any questions.

PRIZES! The person who contributes the most fatally good recipe (as determined by the cookbook editors), will win a copy of the book *Relic*, by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child, and two tickets to the movie of *Relic* when it is released (supposedly next summer). Plus, of course, a starring role in the book *Relish*.

Don't wait! December is not far away! Contribute today! Proceeds from the cookbook go to two very worthy charitable organizations: the Greater Chicago Food Depository and Chicago House & Social Service Agency. Help us help them with the best possible cookbook.

Field Museum Fan Mail

The Field Museum received the following letter addressed to the Security Supervisor of The Field Museum:

November 13, 1995

Dear Security Supervisor:

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank your organization, specifically Security Officer Wilkens, for the professionalism displayed on September 24, 1995.

My wife, seven year old daughter and I were traveling on South Lake Shore Drive on that day. We were headed to the Postal Service's annual Unity Day celebration. As we were

turning into the parking lot of the museum, our car was struck from behind. My head struck the side window of our car, smashing the glass completely out. I was pretty shaken up. My wife was also dazed and bruised.

A stranger had immediately approached our car and advised us to remain calm and not to move. Within minutes the police and an ambulance were on the scene. My family was taken to Northwestern Memorial Hospital. We were soon recovered from our injuries and now continue with our normal daily functions.

We later learned that that *stranger* was Security Officer **David Wilkins**. We want to thank Officer Wilkens for his expeditious action and genuine desire to help. He is to be commended. We also congratulate your organization for the obvious training afforded your officers and for the professional wisdom exercised in the retention of Officer Wilkens who, indeed, is an asset to your organization and its surrounding public.

Again, our sincere thanks to you and Officer David Wilkens

Sincerely, XXXX (Human Resources Specialist, U.S. Postal Service)

YULE BE GLAD YOU JOINED! SHC (Single High-spirited Committee) seeking brave, talented, "Life of the Party" hams to perform 10 to 20 minute musical program of Holiday fun and fellowship with like-minded colleagues at The Field Museum's Holiday Fest. Please join us on Tuesday, Nov. 28 at 4:30 p.m. Classroom 1. Call **Cynthia** (x460) with questions.

SECURITY UPDATE

HAVING A DOOR OR LOCK PROBLEM?

Doors not closing properly, and faulty or inoperative locks compromise the security of work areas and should be repaired immediately. If you have a problem with a door or a lock, call the Security Equipment Office (x239), or the Security Console (x322) and the problem will be quickly addressed. We are here to serve and assist you in protecting the Museum assets.

COMPUTER HARDWARE SECURITY

Concerned about the security of your computers? Computers and peripherals can be easily secured with a cabling system, preventing them from being removed unless by authorized persons. Even laptops can now be secured with portable devices not permanently affixed to the equipment - ideal when taking a laptop on a trip. For information, contact **Ron Cundiff**, Manager of Security Services (x856).

From the Membership Department

Thank You!

To all the staff and volunteers who helped with the Membership Department's Autumn Beer Tasting. We could not have done it without you.

Beth Adams
Adam Blough
Joe Byrnes
Tom Griffin
Lori Grove
Adam Kashuba

Margaret Ketchum
Carolyn Moon
Will Grewe Mullins
Jenny Pitzen
Tim Pitzen
Ben Schenker
Marianne Schenker
Robin Sindelar
Maria Sovero
Veitric Thompson
Anna Marie Villacis

And Special thanks to:

Liz Adams
Ed Czerwin
Ron Dorfman
Robert Harris
Jim Simms

GREAT, SIMPLE HOLIDAY GIFT

Field Museum Calendars (1996) are now available for \$1.00. Call **Jason Hamlin** (x474) or drop by the Publications Office (ground floor next to the President's Office).

An ancient curse.

A museum in turmoil.

*A recipe so good ... it can
kill you!*

RELISH the 1995 Field Museum
Staff/Volunteer Cookbook
will go on sale in December.

WE NEED KILLER RECIPES! Please
contribute TODAY! Send recipes to **Elaine
Zeiger**, Geology Department. Call Elaine

and Reptiles of the Forested Mountains of Vietnam", at 12:00 noon in the Zoology classroom. All are invited to attend.

FIELD MUSEUM AWARDED TWO MACARTHUR FOUNDATION GRANTS

The MacArthur Foundation has awarded a major grant of \$400,000 over five years to support a project by Field Museum Research Associate **Julian Kerbis** (Zoology, Mammals) on "The Conservation of Biological Diversity in Uganda." Uganda's equatorial location, great topographic relief, high rainfall, productivity, and abundant wetlands make it one of the most biologically diverse areas on the African continent. The MacArthur award will fund a collaborative program between Makerere University Institute of the Environment and Natural Resources and The Field Museum to: i) train Ugandan and other African biologists; ii) continue to develop the facilities of the National Museum of Zoology and National Herbarium at Makerere University; iii) develop collaborations among Ugandan conservation agencies and their counterparts in adjacent countries; and, iv) promote biological conservation through field studies, workshops and publications on Uganda's flora and fauna.

The MacArthur Foundation also has awarded a major grant of \$129,000 to support a collaborative project between The Field Museum and the World Wide Fund for Nature that will train professors and students at the University of Antananarivo in the Malagasy Republic. This three-year program will consist of seminars and associated field training to be carried out in Madagascar by foreign and Malagasy researchers, curators and students. There will also be an annual summer training

program in Chicago involving Malagasy and Field Museum researchers.

EXTERNAL REVIEW OF FIELD MUSEUM LIBRARY

On November 16 and 17, an internal review team of **Alaka Wali** (CCUC and Anthropology, Chair of Review Committee), **Pat Herendeen** (Geology), **Mike Dillon** (Botany), **Rüdiger Bieler** (Zoology), **Sheryl Heidenreich** (Anthropology), **Francie Muraski-Stotz** (Exhibits) and **Phil Hanson** (Education), together with three external consultants undertook the first wide-ranging review of the operations and services of The Field Museum Library in more than two decades. The external members of the review team were Ms. Julie Hurd, Science Librarian, University of Illinois at Chicago, Ms. Nancy Steger, Head of Information Services, New York Botanical Garden, and Tom Moritz, Head of the Library, California Academy of Sciences. The team will present their findings in the form of a written report before the end of the year. The team greatly appreciated the assistance of all the Library staff and all those who responded to the recent questionnaire on Field Museum library services and operations.

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon for November 21, 1995 was presented by **Jeffrey Walker**, post-doctoral researcher, Division of Fishes, Department of Zoology. Jeff discussed his research relating the diversity of fish body shape to biomechanical attributes involved in locomotion and feeding as well as environmental attributes of fish habitats. Jeff described the ecomorphological model proposed by Paul Webb which outlined the

relationship of fish morphology as a function of the relative abundance of a food source and the type of foods eaten. Jeff sought to test Webb's model using the three-spined stickleback as his test organism. He chose lakes in the area near Anchorage, Alaska because fish colonization of the area could have occurred no later than 20,000 years ago when the last glaciation retreated. Consequently all local area diversification has been quite recent in evolutionary time. The forty lakes he sampled differed in the areas of relatively shallow, or limnetic waters versus deeper, benthic waters. Lakes also differed in the presence or absence of other fishes that prey on the stickleback. Optimal fish locomotion would differ with respect to each of these four environmental variables. Jeff described the respective fish morphologies required to optimize locomotor performance in terms of the biomechanical consequences of each design. For the 870 sticklebacks sampled, fifteen land marks were used to describe body morphology and superposition analysis to transform the data for a common basis for comparisons. Principal components analyses were employed to extract the patterns of variation of each morphological component. He found a strong correlation between optimal fish morphology from lakes where predators were present for both benthic and limnetic swimmers. Although fish morphology was more variable in each habitat lacking predators, optimal benthic and limnetic morphologies were approached.

1995 EXPENDITURES

In order to ensure that 1995 purchase orders expenses hit our 1995 budget, please have all purchase orders in Tom Geary's office no later than Wednesday, November 30. Purchase

orders with November dates on them will be charged to your 1995 budget (assuming of course that your budget is not overspent). Purchase orders received in December and after will hit the year in which title to the goods or service is received.

Welcome!

Ron Cundiff has joined our staff as the new Security Manager. He has a Masters of Science degree in Health Science Administration from Governors State University. Ron has broad knowledge of security and safety issues as well as a background in the implementation of various programs. He also has nine years experience in customer service programs and thirteen years experience in parking management. Please help us welcome him to the Museum.

Christopher Toft joined the Development Department on November 6 as the Coordinator of the Friends Groups. He will staff the Friends of the Field Museum Library, the Collections Committee and the annual fund for our donor groups.

Chris comes to the Museum with experience as a theater and book critic, fiction editor and graduate teaching assistant. He earned a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Eastern Washington University (Cheney, Washington) and a Bachelor of Arts in Theater from Kenyon College (Gambier, Ohio). We welcome Chris to the Development Department and The Field Museum. He can be reached at ext. 874.

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions is Tuesday at noon. Printed on recycled paper. ♻️